

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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For Release: **IMMEDIATE**  
Date: August 28, 2007

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**GOV. EASLEY WAIVES ROAD WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS TO AID IN DROUGHT RELIEF**

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley today issued an executive order waiving certain highway size and weight restrictions for trucks to help with drought relief efforts for farmers. The order allows vehicles transporting hay or water along North Carolina roadways to drought-stricken counties to exceed the normal size and weight restrictions.

“The drought has caused many farmers to dip into their winter hay supplies in order to feed their livestock this summer,” Easley said. “Waiving these restrictions on trucks will help farmers get hay and other feed to their animals so that can stay in business during the drought.”

The waiver allows trucks to have the maximum gross weight criteria established by the manufacturer or 90,000 pounds, whichever is less, with a tandem axle weight of up to 42,000 pounds and a single axle weight up to 22,000 pounds. A vehicle may be 12 feet in width and 75 feet in length. Under normal circumstances, trucks can have up to 80,000 pounds total gross weight, a tandem axle weight of 38,000 pounds and 20,000 pounds for a single axle. The normal size regulations are a width of eight feet, six inches and a length of 70 feet.

These exemptions allow more hay and water to be transported during each shipment. The executive order is effective immediately and will remain in effect for up to 30 days. An exempted vehicle must produce identification verifying its load will be used for emergency relief efforts associated with the drought.

Last week, Easley asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture to declare 85 North Carolina counties as agricultural disasters because of drought-related crop losses. Federal Agriculture Department Loss Assessment Reports show most of the counties in the state with a 30 percent or greater loss of at least one significant crop.

For more information about the hay shortage, contact the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Hay Alert Hotline at 1-866-506-6222 or log onto their website at:  
**[www.ncagr.com/drought](http://www.ncagr.com/drought)**

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